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ABSTRACT

In a celebration of the expansiveness and inclusiveness of farce, this book describes the art form rather than defines it. Part 1 illustrates the nature of farce and its relationship to tragedy, comedy, and melodrama. Part 2 is a cumulative biography of farce, beginning with Greek and Roman writers and continuing through Shakespeare, Moliere, and into the Dadaists, Surrealists, and others of the twentieth century. The book reviews a Hollywood-inspired resurgence of farce, which has seeped into such diverse artistic categories as painting, fiction, poetry, dance, and music. The book also discusses the works of such modern masters of farce as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, the Marx Brothers, Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, Sid Caesar, and Monty Python. (SG)

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